

# OVERVIEW OF CAMT

August 20, 2014

## **Mission Statement**

The Collaborative Adaptive Management Team will work with a sense of urgency to develop a robust science and adaptive management program that will inform both the implementation of the current Biological Opinions including interim\* operations; and the development of revised Biological Opinions.

\*The term "interim" refers to the period during which revised Biological Opinions are being developed.

The Collaborative Adaptive Management Team (CAMT) is the product of a decision made on April 9, 2013 by the United States District Court for the Eastern District of California (Court) to extend a court-ordered remand schedule for completing revisions to the salmon (NMFS 2009) and Delta Smelt (FWS 2008) Biological Opinions (BiOps).

The court order allowed the parties who made the motion (U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Marine Fisheries Service and CA Department of Water Resources) additional time to extend the remand schedule for the development of a "robust science and adaptive management program with collaboration of the scientists and experts from public water agencies (water contractors) and non-governmental organizations (environmental organizations) to inform the development of the BiOps."

The adaptive management process will include the active evaluation of current hypotheses associated with key operating parameters that are associated with the Bay Delta oriented measures of the BiOps, synthesizing current scientific information, developing new modeling or predictive tools, and testing and evaluating alternative operational strategies and other management actions to improve performance from both biological and water supply perspectives. (DN 1080-1,2)

With respect to the disputed BiOps, specific goals are to identify and evaluate management actions, including but not limited to actions set forth in the BiOps' Reasonable and Prudent Alternatives ("RPAs").

The CAMT was formed shortly after the April 2013 court order and was charged with preparing a workplan for the Court that identifies topic areas where significant disagreement exists between parties and describes how the topics will be addressed through a collaborative science process. The CAMT (comprised of designated managers and scientists representing state and federal agencies, water contractors and non-governmental organizations) prepared a workplan

and submitted it to the Court in February, 2014. The Court accepted the workplan and directed CAMT to conduct its work as described in the workplan with periodic reporting.

The CAMT operates under the policy direction and guidance of the Collaborative Science Policy Group (Policy Group). The Policy Group is made up of agency directors and executives from the entities involved in the original BiOps litigation. To assist with its work the CAMT formed two scoping teams comprised of scientists from representative organizations to develop a methodology and science process for addressing the disagreements identified in the CAMT process. One scoping team represents Delta Smelt interests and issues and the other represents south Delta salmonid interests and issues. Investigative work is now progressing along the lines and schedule developed by the CAMT and the scoping teams.

The CAMT science efforts differ from other science efforts in the Delta in several significant ways due to the CAMT activities being conducted under the Court orders. First, participants are limited to the agencies and parties involved in the litigation of the Biological Opinion. Second, the time line for investigations is compressed to allow work to feed into the new Biological Opinions. Third, and perhaps most significant, is that CAMT investigations are focused on resolving disagreements among the engaged parties.

The CAMT is relying on the support and guidance of the Delta Science Program (DSP) to insure that CAMT investigations are consistent with the Delta Science Plan. The CAMT participants are committed to science that is relevant, legitimate and credible. The DSP is overseeing the external peer review of all CAMT investigations—reviewing both the investigation plans and findings.